

Preliminary Amendment

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5. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises filler material.
 6. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises one or more ultra-violet light absorbers.
 7. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises one or more optical brighteners.
 8. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a film of heat-resistant material selected from polyesters, polyamides, polyimides, polycarbonates, polysulphones, polypropylene and cellophane.
 9. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a thickness in the range 0.5 to 5.0 μm , preferably 1.5 to 3.5 μm , typically 1.6 to 2.0 μm .
 10. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, further comprising a subcoat between the substrate and coating.

 - X3
12. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the other surface of the substrate has a heat-resistant backcoat.

 - X4
15. (Amended) A method of forming an overlay on a receiver material, comprising superposing a thermal transfer medium in accordance with claim 1 and a receiver material; and applying localised heating to the thermal transfer medium to form an overlay on the receiver material.

 - D5
17. (Amended) Receiver material bearing an overlay produced by the method of claim 15.

 - A4
19. (Amended) Receiver material according to claim 17, wherein the receiver material has an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer.

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20. (Amended) Receiver material according to claim 17 in the form of an identification card bearing a full colour image produced by thermal transfer printing and text and/or a bar code produced by mass transfer printing of colorant.

Please refer to the attached Appendix for changes made to the above claims.